

P23885.A03



Customer No: 07055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Siegfried SCHLISIO

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No. : 10/665,485

Examiner: D. WALLS

Filed : September 22, 2003

For : PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR CONNECTING SMOKING ARTICLES

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

The following documents were cited in a Search Report conducted in European Patent Application No. 05 01 3782, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (1) German Patent Application No. 12 58 773 published January 11, 1968 as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone) with regard to claims 1-11 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 2 as being particularly relevant. Applicants note a copy of this document was previously forwarded to U.S. Examiner when it was cited in an Information disclosure statement filed September 22, 2003, and will therefore not be cited in the PTO-1449 Form;

- (2) German Patent Application No. 11 57 525 published November 25, 1963 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, and 11 of the European application. The Examiner noted the Figure as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 3,307,561 issued March 7, 1967 to SCHUBERT et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German application;
- (3) Great Britain Patent Application No. 731 861 published June 15, 1955 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, and 11 of the European application. The Examiner noted Page 3, line 20-line 96, and Figures 1 and 2 as being particularly relevant;
- (4) German Patent Application No. 12 83 723 published November 21, 1968 as "A" category document (i.e., technological background) with regard to claims 1-3, and as an "X" category document with regard to claims 4-11 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 1 as being particularly relevant. Applicants note a copy of this document was previously forwarded to U.S. Examiner when it was cited in an Information disclosure statement filed September 22, 2003, and will therefore not be cited in the PTO-1449 Form;
- (5) German Patent Application No. 11 61 507 published January 16, 1964 as "A" category document with regard to claims 1-3, and as an "X" category document with regard to claims 4, 9, and 11 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 1 as being particularly relevant; and

(6) European Patent Application No. 1 108 369 published June 20, 2001 as "A" category document with regard to claims 1-11 of the European application.

The Examiner noted the entire as being particularly relevant.

The above-cited documents (2), (3), (5) and (6) are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. Of course, this statement does not apply to U.S. patent family members forwarded for the convenience of the Examiner, or to information that has previously been cited by Applicant or the Examiner in the present application, as that information is already of record and no certification is necessary.

Applicant notes that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicant has not received a first action on the

P23885.A03

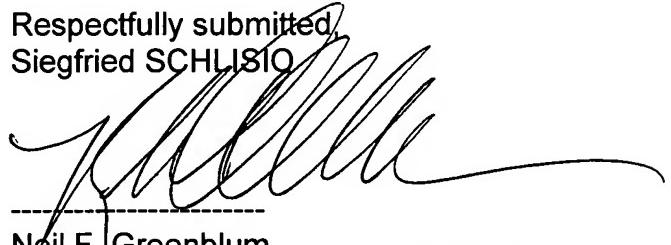
Customer No: 07055

merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merit has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
Siegfried SCHLISIO

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